News release

23 April 2007

New weather service for commercial airlines

A new internet weather briefing service for commercial airlines worldwide is now available from the Met Office – the UK's national weather service and World Area Forecast Centre for aviation.

The new Airline Briefing Service offers the latest pre-flight weather briefings via the internet direct into airlines' operations using existing World Area Forecasts and newly-developed charts and products.

The new service provides excellent value for money and gives subscribers direct access to the Met Office's expertise in meteorology and forecast quality. Reliability and accuracy of weather information is backed up by fully interactive applications. These offer dynamic graphics of temperature, current weather, significant weather and upper winds. The service also provides alerts when airline-defined minimum-landing requirements are compromised by actual or forecast airport weather conditions.

The Airline Briefing Service is flexible and allows operations managers to choose the level of service linked to their needs. The entry-level service provides all the standard International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)-defined weather information including charts, airfield observations, forecasts and Opmet – in addition to more detailed radar, precipitation, lightning, visibility, wind, cloud and convection forecasts for Europe. The top level adds fully interactive charts that give the user the ability to pan, zoom and animate sequences of data.

Doug Johnson, Head of the Transport Business Unit at the Met Office, is keen to stress the competitiveness of the service, saying: "safety and efficiency are key drivers in the airline industry; this service will provide reliability, choice and value for money. It offers both interactive and static views for safety critical decisions and improved operational efficiency".

Airline Briefing Service

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